

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION**  
**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**APRIL 25, 2001**  
**EOB LOBBY AUDITORIUM ROOM**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Ron Ogens, Chair  
Commissioner Tom Carr  
Commissioner Paul Sterling  
Assistant Chief Phil Guercio, DFRS  
District Chief John Gallo (Alternate)  
Mike Kelley, Sandy Spring VFD (Alternate)

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Chief Roger Strock, DFRS  
Chief David Dwyer, DVFRS  
Assistant Chief Andy Johnston, DFRS  
Lieutenant John Fiedler, DFRS  
Nick Venuto, IAFF Local 1664  
Chief Edward Sherburne, BCCRS  
George Giebel, MCFRS  
Neil A. Shorb, MCFRS  
Beth Feldman, MCFRS  
Annette Cheng, MCFRS

**1. Call to Order – Chair Ogens**

The Operations Committee meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Ogens at 7:40 a.m. in the EOB lobby conference room.

**2. Approval of Minutes of March 28, 2001 Meeting**

**A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to approve the Operations Committee minutes of the March 28, 2001 meeting. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Sterling and PASSED unanimously.**

**3- Communications Issues**

- Designation of Portable Radio

The Communications Subcommittee suggested that portable radio units be identified themselves as follows:

“(Unit #) <b>A</b> ” – assigned to the <b>driver’s</b> position	= “Engine 181A”
“(Unit #) <b>B</b> ” – assigned to the <b>officer’s</b> position	= “Engine 181B”
“(Unit #) <b>C</b> ” – assigned to the <b>right bucket</b> position	= “Engine 181C”

If additional radios are issued, they will be designated:

“(Unit #) <b>D</b> ” – assigned to the <b>left bucket</b> (or equivalent) position	= “Engine 181D”
“(Unit #) <b>T</b> ” – assigned to the <b>tiller</b> position	= “Truck 25T”

- Switching to an Operations Channel on Initial Dispatch

The current policy is to switch full assignment dispatches to an alternate radio frequency **after** the second vocal is sounded. In anticipation of the new radio system, the Communications Subcommittee recommended beginning switching units to alternate radio operations **at the initial dispatch**. Under the new system, radio traffic will be assigned to tactical channels and “talk groups,”

therefore minimizing radio traffic on the dispatch channel from the time of initial dispatch. The radio traffic generated by units responding to full assignment incidents would be switched over immediately onto the designated alternate operations channel rather than using critical airtime on the dispatch channel to acknowledge their response. Both channels will be monitored.

**A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to recommend to the FRC: 1) the approval of the designation of portable radio listed above for a 90-day trial period to enable ECC staff to determine whether there are any problems distinguishing the voice transmission of individuals identifying themselves on the air; and 2) to amend the affected sections of the Communications Manual and dispatch procedures regarding the immediate switching of full assignment incidents to an alternate operations channel on dispatch. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Sterling and PASSED unanimously.**

**4. Update on EMS Service Delivery Study**

Commissioner Sterling reported that the tentative date for reporting on Phase II of EMS Service Delivery Study will be at the Operations Committee in August.

**5. Meeting Schedule for Remainder of CY01**

The Committee will discuss this item at the May Operations Committee meeting.

**A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to adjourn the meeting. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Sterling and PASSED unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 AM.